



THE CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE LECTURERS' NEWSLETTER MARCH – APRIL 2013

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Hi All,

I would like to start by saying a big Thank You to everyone who has sent me cards after my recent surgery. Unless you have been trapped in the house like I have you can't imagine what a card means. Hopefully I will be out and about in another week or two and will once again be able to visit with all of you wonderful Grangers.

Your Pomona Lecturers have met and discussed this year's contests and projects and talked about next year. I want to thank all the loyal grangers that came to this meeting.

I am in need of shared items to put in the newsletter. Please remember, though, that they cannot be copy-righted items. I need original information that we can share. Also, please be sure that they are family-oriented articles, skits, tableaux and etc. that Grangers expect. If you make up a quiz, please share it. If it is about Valentines Day, for example, I will hold it for next year but please send them. And, if you have it on your computer, please e-mail it to me. Call me lazy if you want, but it is a lot easier to copy and paste than to retype something. (Especially this month when I have to type one-handed) We all need to help each other. A lot of us have served many, many years as a Lecturer and are running out of ideas.

By now all Pomonas should have plans for their Talent and "A Number" run-offs. It may be white outside but June is coming faster than we realize. Also, please push the Photo Contest in your Granges.

I know some Granges have had to cancel meetings because of the weather, but please remember to send in your report anyway. I have no way of knowing that the meeting was cancelled and will think you just didn't send in the report.

The grange is changing. We need new members and new ideas. Working together we can all make a difference in our organization. As Lecturers/Program Directors, our programs can make the difference. If you need help, please let me know.

See you around the State again very soon.

Marge

SHARED NUMBERS...

THE TAXI RIDE with Thanks to Senexet Grange

A passenger in a taxi leaned over to ask the driver a question and gently tapped him on the shoulder to get his attention.

The driver screamed, lost control of the cab, nearly hit a bus, drove up over the curb and stopped just inches from a large plate-glass window.

For a few moments everything was silent in the cab. Then, the shaking driver said "are you OK? I'm so sorry, but you scared the daylight out of me..."

The badly shaken passenger apologized to the driver and said "I didn't realize that a mere tap on the shoulder would startle someone so badly."

The driver replied, "No, no, I'm the one who is sorry, it's entirely my fault. Today is my very first day driving a cab. You see, I've been driving a hearse for 25 years..."

BIBLE VERSES

With so many Granges opting not to do degree work anymore, how about including some of the Bible Verses used in the degrees as part of our programs.

The following are from the 1st Degree which is based on "A Farm in the Springtime".

I will be glad to help anyone who wants to put on a ritual program or I can put you in touch with someone in your area who would do a good job helping you.

"He that will not plow, etc.	Proverbs 20:4
"He that tilleth," etc.	Proverbs 12:11
"The hand of the diligent," etc.	Proverbs 12:24
"Happy is the man that findeth wisdom," etc.	Proverbs 3:13-14
"Light be," and its contest.	Genesis 1:2-3
"weeping may endure for a night," etc.	Psalms 30:5
"To the upright there ariseth," etc.	Psalms 112:4
"The path of the righteous (just) shineth," etc.	Proverbs 4:18
"The crooked be made straight," etc.	Isaiah 40:4
"God planted the Garden of Eden," etc.	Refers to Genesis 2
"Not chosen by outward appearance," etc.	Refers to I Samuel 16:7
"Seedtime and harvest shall never fail," etc.	Genesis 8:22

A POETIC QUIZ

Four men met, and sat to play,
They played all night, 'til break of day.
They played for cash, and not for fun,
With separate scores for everyone.
Yet when each came to square account
They each had made the same amount.
Can you this paradox explain?
If no one lost how could all gain?
(Answer: They were musicians)

MUSIC QUIZ with Thanks to Riverton Grange

1. Songs such as Do Re Mi, Edelweiss and My Favorite Things are from this famous musical.
Ans. The Sound of Music
2. The songs In The Mood, Tuxedo Junction and Moonlight Serenade are from this era of music.
Ans. Swing or Big Band Era
3. This composer was considered a child prodigy, composed over 1,000 works, died a pauper at 35 and was considered the greatest composer of all time.
Ans. Ludwig Amadeus Mozart
4. This famous orchestra performs at Tanglewood in Lenox, MA every summer.
Ans. The Boston Pops or Boston Symphony
5. The William Tell Overture by Rossini contains the theme for this famous cowboy.
Ans. The Lone Ranger

IT HAPPENED IN APRIL (QUIZ) with Thanks to Ekonk Grange

1. April 1, 1865, on this date, the Confederate Troops, led by General George Pickett, were soundly defeated at "Five Forks", Virginia. This resulted in what? Ans. The fate of General Robert E. Lee was sealed and this was the last major battle of the Civil war.

2. April 2, 1805, in Denmark, on this date in history, a famous author was born. He wrote 165 fairy tales, among which was "The Princess and the Pea". Who was he? Ans. Hans Christian Anderson
3. On April 3, 1860, "This" began. The system entailed 190 stops, each 15 miles apart; with strong, capable young men and meant that mail could get from St. Joseph, Missouri to California in only 10 days. The service lasted only 2 years. What was it? Ans. The Pony Express.
4. This famous author, "The Grand Master of Letters", was born April 3, 1783 in New York State. He created such masterpieces as "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" and the character of "Rip vanWinkle". Who was this famous man? Ans. Washington Irving
5. A sniper in Memphis, Tennessee, ended the life of this famous American on April 3, 1968. This man was best known for his "I have a dream" civil rights speech. Who was he? Ans. Dr. Martin Luther King.

NEVER BE LATE with Thanks to Colchester Grange

A Priest was being honored at his retirement dinner after 25 years in the parish. A leading local politician and member of the congregation was chosen to make the presentation and to give a little speech at the dinner.

However, he was delayed, so the Priest decided to say his own few words while they waited. "I got my first impression of the parish from the first confession I heard here. I thought I had been assigned to a terrible place. The very first person who entered my confessional told me he had stolen a television set and, when questioned by the police, was able to lie his way out of it. He had stolen money from his parents, embezzled from his employer, had an affair with his boss's wife, taken illegal drugs, and gave VD to his sister. I was appalled. But as the days went on I learned that my people were not all like that and I had, indeed, come to a fine parish full of good and loving people."

Just as the Priest finished his little talk, the politician arrived full of apologies at being late. He immediately began to make the presentation and gave his talk. 'I'll never forget the first day our parish Priest arrived, said the politician. 'In fact, I had the honor of being the first person to go to him for confession.'

MORAL: Never, Never, Never Be Late.

SOME INTERESTING FACTS with Thanks to Lois Zezima, Dirgo Grange, Maine

*The University of Alaska spans 4 time zones.

*In Ancient Greece, tossing an apple to a girl was a traditional proposal of marriage. Catching it meant she accepted.

*Warner Communication paid \$25 million for the copyright to the song Happy Birthday.

*Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair.

*The Swine Flu vaccine in 1976 caused more death and illness than the disease it was intended to prevent.

*The military salute is a motion that evolved from medieval times, when the knights in armor raised their visor to reveal their identity.

*"Jaws" is the most common name for a goldfish.

*Ben and Jerry's send their waste from making ice cream to pig farmers for feed. Pigs love the stuff, except for mint oreo.

- *In ancient times strangers shook hands to show they were unarmed.
- *The tooth is the only part of the human body that cannot heal itself.
- *Brazil gets its name from the nut not the other way around.
- *If you get to the bottom of a well or tall chimney and look up, you can see stars, even in the middle of the day.
- *80% of women wash their hands when leaving a restroom. Only 55% of men do.
- *You breath 10 million times a year.
- *Caffeine increases the power of aspirin and other pain killers, that is why it is found in some medicines.
- *It costs the soda industry 100 million a year for thefts committed involving vending machines.

SOME NEW DEFINITIONS FOR SOME OLD WORDS with Thanks to Enfield Grange

ADULT: A person who has stopped growing at both ends and is now growing in the middle.

BEAUTY PARLOR: A place where women curl up and dye.

CHICKENS: The only animals you eat before they are born and after they are dead.

COMMITTEE: A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

DUST: Mud with the juice squeezed out.

EGOTIST: Someone who is usually me-deep in conversation.

HANDKERCHIEF: Cold Storage.

INFLATION: Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.

MOSQUITO: An insect that makes you like flies better.

RAISIN: A grape with a sunburn.

SECRET: Something you tell to one person at a time.

SKELETON: A bunch of bones with the person scraped off.

TOOTHACHE: The pain that drives you to extraction.

TOMORROW: One of the greatest labor saving devices of today.

YAWN: An honest opinion openly expressed.

WRINKLES: Something other people have, similar to my character lines.

THE SLANG OF THE 20'S with Thanks to Riverton Grange

Many slang words and phrases came into common use in the 1920's. If you thought someone was handing you a line of nonsense, you might tell them to stop the banana oil. You could compliment a woman by telling her she was the eel's ankles, the bee's knees or the cat's meow. A stylish young man might be called a sheik. But beware if someone who says you're a flat tire, because they think you're a boring person. How many of the following can you identify?

1. Speakeasy ... An Illegal Tavern or Nightclub
2. Bootleg ... Illegal
3. Guff ... Back Talk
4. Half-pint ... A child
5. Hep ... With it; up to date
6. Flapper ... Stylish young women
7. Bob ... Woman's short haircut
8. Razz ... Tease
9. Smackeroo ... A dollar
10. Spiffy ... Dressed up, looking good
11. Two bits ... a quarter
12. Horsefeathers ... Nonsense
13. Lollygagging ... Being Lazy
14. Mob ... Gangsters
15. Ritzy ... Posh, elegant
16. Dogs ... Feet
17. Dr. Dentons ... Wool pajamas with feet
18. The Berries ... Just Great

MARCH IS FOR THE IRISH (some facts you may not know)

St. Patrick's Day is observed on March 17 because that is the feast day of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. It is believed that he died on March 17 in the year 461 AD. It is also a worldwide celebration of Irish culture and history. St. Patrick's Day is a national holiday in Ireland, and a provincial holiday in the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

The actual color of St. Patrick is blue. Green became associated with St. Patrick's Day during the 19th century. Green, in Irish legends, was worn by fairies and immortals, and also by people to encourage their crops to grow.

St. Patrick did not actually drive snakes out of Ireland; the snakes represent the pagans that he converted to Christianity.

The very first St. Patrick's Day parade was not in Ireland. It was in Boston in 1737.

In Chicago, on St. Patrick's Day, the rivers are dyed green. Mayor Daley is also of Irish descent.

In Seattle, there is a ceremony where a green stripe is painted down the roads.

In Ireland on St. Patrick's Day, people traditionally wear a small bunch of shamrocks on their jackets or caps. Children wear orange, white and green badges, and women and girls wear green ribbons in their hair. Many young people dye their hair green for the special day. Many people wear green on this holiday to avoid being pinched.

The phrase, "Drowning The Shamrock" is from the custom of floating the shamrock on the top of whiskey before drinking it. The Irish believe that if you keep the custom, then you will have a prosperous year.

Many bars in the United States, and abroad, serve green beer to celebrate St. Patty's Day.

34 million Americans have Irish ancestry, according to the 2003 US Census. That's almost nine times the population of Ireland, which has 4.1 million people.

Nine of the people who signed our Declaration Of Independence were of Irish origin, and nineteen Presidents of the United States proudly claim Irish heritage -- including our first President, George Washington.

The Irish flag is green, white and orange. The green symbolizes the people of the south, and orange, the people of the north. White represents the peace that brings them together as a nation.

THE MOUSE TRAP with Thanks to Glastonbury Grange

A mouse looked through a crack in the wall to see the farmer and his wife open a package. "What food might this contain?, wondered the mouse. He was devastated to discover it was a mouse trap. Retreating to the farmyard the mouse proclaimed his warning. There is a mouse trap in the house. The chicken clucked and scratched, raised her head and said, "Mr. Mouse, I can tell this is a grave concern to you, but it is of no consequence to me. I cannot be bothered by it."

The mouse turned to the pig and told him. The pig sympathized, but said "I am so very sorry, Mr. Mouse, but there is nothing I can do about it but pray. Be assured you are in my prayers."

The mouse turned to the cow and said, "there is a mouse trap in the house!" The cow said, "I'm sorry for you but it is no skin off my nose." So the mouse returned to the house, head down and dejected, to face the farmer's mouse trap alone...

That very night a sound was heard throughout the house...a sound of a mouse trap catching its prey. The farmer's wife rushed to see what was caught. In the darkness she did not see it. It was a venomous snake whose tail was caught in the trap. The snake bit the farmer's wife. The farmer rushed her to the hospital. When she returned home she still had a fever. Everyone knows that you treat a fever with chicken soup, so the farmer took his hatchet to the farmyard for the soup's main ingredient. But his wife's sickness continued. Friends and neighbors came to sit with her round the clock. To feed them the farmer butchered the pig. But, alas, the farmer's wife did not get well...she died. So many people came to the funeral that the farmer had the cow slaughtered to provide enough meat for all of them at the funeral luncheon. The mouse looked upon it all from his crack in the wall with great sadness.

So the moral to this story is – the next time you hear someone is facing a problem and you think it doesn't concern you – remember when one of us is threatened we are all at risk. We are all involved in this journey called life. We must keep an eye out for one another and make an extra effort to encourage one another. Each of us is a vital thread in another person's tapestry. Our lives are woven together for a reason.

THE CALL OF SPRING with Thanks to Litchfield Grange

March wind is a jolly fellow
He likes to joke and play
He turns umbrellas inside out
And blows men's hats away.

He calls the pussy willows
And Whispers in each ear,
Wake up you lazy little seeds;
Don't you know that spring is almost here?

FAMOUS APRIL FOOL JOKES with Thanks to Ekonk Grange

In 1957 the BBC News show, "Panorama" announced that a very mild winter and the virtual elimination of the dreaded "Spaghetti Weevil" had resulted in a bumper spaghetti crop. They showed footage of farmers "harvesting" spaghetti from trees. Listeners called in to order spaghetti trees and the radio announcer told them to take a sprig of spaghetti, place it in a tin of tomato sauce and wait for germination!

In 1962 Swedish television told viewers an easy way had been found to take the existing all black and white televisions and simply cover the screen with stretched nylon stockings and the screen would turn into colored television. Thousands of viewers tried this, of course, to no avail. Note: It was 1970 before color television came to Sweden.

1996: Taco Bell Corporation announced that they had purchased the "Liberty Bell" and were renaming it, "The Taco Liberty Bell". Outraged citizens called the National Historic Park in Philadelphia where the Liberty Bell is housed. When the National Press Secretary was called and asked about why this tragedy could have happened with the famous Liberty Bell, he said, well, today, the government sold the Lincoln Memorial too! From now on, it will be called "The Ford Lincoln Mercury Memorial"!!!

KITCHEN MUSIC

Some folks like organ music, Some prefer the band.
But there's one kind of music, I think is simply grand.
It's to hear a steak a-sputter, As it sizzles in the pan.
And to hear the kettle singing, As a kettle only can.
Then to hear the dishes clinking, when the table's being set.
When a fellow's good and hungry, That's the sweetest music yet.

APRIL IS GRANGE MONTH **A Few Facts About National and Our Connecticut State Grange**

The National Grange was organized Dec. 4, 1867 by

Oliver Hudson Kelley – Born in Boston – Farmer in Minnesota - US Dept. of Agriculture

William Saunders – Scotland – famous for his landscape work on the Capitol Grounds in Washington DC
US Dept. of Agriculture

Rev. Aaron B. Grosh – Dept. of Agriculture

Wm. M. Ireland – worked for Post office in Wash. DC

Rev. John Trimble - Worked for Treasury Dept. in DC

John R. Thompson – Worked for Treasury Dept. in DC

Francis M. McDowell – Pomologist (studies fruit) – 1886 USDA established the Division of Pomology.

The first CT State Grange was organized in an opera house in Danbury CT April 15, 1875.

The first eight Granges in Connecticut were:

1. Stafford
2. Windsor
3. Lanesville (New Milford) Village of Lanesville which was named after the Lanes family.
4. Hawleyville (Newtown) Village of Hayleyville which was named after the Hayley family.
5. Granby
6. Danbury
7. Roxbury (rockier section of Woodbury)
8. Sherman (Gaylordsville) Part of New Milford – Sherman prominent family

Granges 1 through 20 were part of the first State Grange. Several of these failed due to poor understanding of the rules of the order, disputes and financial matters. The last time the 1st State grange was represented at National was in Boston in 1879.

The 2nd State Grange was organized by Sherman Kimberly on June 24th, 1885 in South Glastonbury. He had organized enough new Granges to again enable CT to have a State Grange.

SHOULD YOU PLANT YOUR PEAS ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY

They are called "SPRING Peas" for a reason. Peas are not a summer crop. As soon as it gets hot, the vines wither up and die. If you wait till it seems a reasonable time to plant, your vines may shrivel and die just as the first peas are ready for picking.

One of the great superstitions of gardening is that is it lucky to plant peas on St. Patrick's Day. And as you probably know all too well, we gardeners need all the luck we can get.

So--it's the right time AND it's lucky—you're already two points ahead of your normal score! (No matter what, plant by April 1st or you're wasting your time--and the peas'.)

Your basic choices are:

- Sweet and crispy snow peas; pick 'em while they're still nice and flat and enjoy 'pod and all' in salads and stir-fries.
- Southern favorite 'snap' or 'sugar' peas; let the pods get a little fatter on the vine before picking, then zip off and discard the strings and eat these sweet treats 'pod and all' as well.

- And, of course, your basic 'English', 'garden' or 'shelling' peas; where you zip open the pod and just eat the tasty peas inside.

Good luck and happy eating.

SOME CLOSING THOUGHTS....

AN APACHE BLESSING

May the sun bring you new energy by day
May the moon softly restore you by night
May the rain wash away your worries
May the breeze blow new strength into your being
May you walk gently through the world and know it's beauty all the days of your life.

AN IRISH WISH FOR FRIENDS

Wishing you a rainbow, For sunlight after showers—
Miles and miles of Irish smiles, For golden happy hours—
Shamrocks at your doorway, For luck and laughter too,
And a host of friends that never ends, Each day your whole life through!

*Choose your friends carefully....You reveal your character not only by the company you keep.....But also by the company you avoid....

*I believe in angels ,
The kind that heaven sends ,
I am surrounded by angels ,
but I call them Friends .

*Look back & get Experience!
Look Forward & See Hope!
Look Around & Find Reality!
Look within & Find Yourself.

*You can't change the whole world, and you certainly can't change other people, but you do have the ability to change yourself. You can have a positive impact in your job, the people with whom you work, and the entire organization...the choice is up to you. —Cherie Carter-Scott

*Most people are about as happy as they make up their minds to be. —Abraham Lincoln

*Don't cry because it is over. Smile because it happened. —Dr. Suess

*Hope sees the invisible, feels the intangible, and achieves the impossible. —Charles Caleb Colton

*Expecting the world to treat you fairly because you are a good person is like expecting the lion not to attack you because you are a vegetarian.

* Every lady hopes that her daughter will marry a better man than she did and is convinced that her son will never find a wife as good as his father did!!!

*The most useless day of all is that in which we have not laughed. —Sebastian R. N. Champport